



NEWS RELEASE

A Project of the
California Secretary of State

BILL JONES
California Secretary of State
VOTE AMERICA CHAIR

VOTE AMERICA CO-CHAIRS

JOHN BURTON
President Pro Tem
California State Senate

JAMES L. BRULTE
Senate Republican Leader
California State Senate

ROBERT HERTZBERG
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly

DAVE COX
Assembly Republican Leader
California State Assembly

JAMES K. HAHN
Mayor
City of Los Angeles

DON KNABE
Supervisor
County of Los Angeles

HERB WESSON
Speaker-Elect of the Assembly
California State Assembly

BJVA02:017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 30, 2002

Contact: Alfie Charles
Shad Balch
916/653-6575

Day Three of Voter Registration Week – Jones Urges Students to Register to Vote and Serve as Precinct Officials

Jones Also Unveils New Web-Based High School Civics Curriculum at www.ShakeTheState.com

SAN FRANCISCO --- In Day 3 of his weeklong, statewide *Vote America Voter Registration Week*, Secretary of State Bill Jones visited a San Francisco charter school, Gateway High School, to register voters, encourage students to serve as precinct officials and unveil a new web-based high school civics curriculum to help encourage participation in our democracy by younger voters.

“Don’t ever let anyone tell you that you can’t make a difference in your community,” Jones told the students of Gateway High School. “Whether you participate by working for a political cause, volunteering in your community, serving as a precinct official on Election Day or just by showing up every election and casting your ballot, you can and will make a difference in the future of this country.”

Jones unveiled a new web site www.ShakeTheState.com that provides high school teachers and students with access to an interactive civics curriculum designed to engage students in history, democracy and in contributing to their communities.

Jones also urged the students to get involved in their communities by assisting county election officials and serving as precinct officials for the upcoming primary election. High school seniors who are at least 16 years old and in good academic standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 are eligible to serve as precinct officials under a law sponsored by Jones in 1996.

“The first line of defense in our battle to combat voter apathy is the individual voter experience on Election Day. When voters see young people participating, when they see competent and dedicated people working at the polling place, the confidence in our democracy is strengthened,” said Jones. “Our young people are the greatest untapped resource in our elections.”

-more-

“Education Day” is the third stop of Jones’ seven-day ***Vote America Voter Registration Week*** where Californians will find an opportunity to register to vote as they go about their daily lives – where they work, where they shop, where they go to school and where they play. Jones has conducted a full week of nonpartisan statewide voter registration drives since 1996.

To encourage voter registration and participation, Jones will be working with thousands of public and private sector partners to provide potential voters with the opportunity to register to vote before the February 19, 2002 deadline. ***Vote America Voter Registration Week*** Partners include some of the state’s leading grocery stores, small businesses, large corporations, industry trade associations, dry cleaners, bookstores, Rock-The-Vote, the World Wrestling Federation and more.

The themes for each day of Voter Registration Week are:

- *Monday, January 28th -- Kick-Off of the week’s events at the State Capitol*
- *Tuesday, January 29th -- Grocer’s Day*
- *Wednesday, January 30th -- Education Day*
- *Thursday, January 31st -- Business/Technology Day*
- *Friday, February 1st -- Entertainment Day*
- *Saturday, February 2nd -- Family Day*
- *Sunday, February 3rd -- Sports Day*

The goal of ***Vote America*** is to provide every eligible voter with the opportunity to be a part of America and help protect democracy at its very core – the ballot box. In addition to registering voters, educating voters, and encouraging voter turnout, ***Vote America*** is also a volunteer recruitment program, asking voters to serve as poll-workers, host a polling place and more. Relying heavily on the combined efforts of the private sector, traditional voting and civic organizations, ***Vote America*** is continuously seeking new partners to help spread the word about getting involved in Democracy.

For more information about voter registration and voting, please visit the ***Vote America*** web site at www.voteamerica.ca.gov or the Secretary of State’s web site at www.ss.ca.gov.